a covering (9; 9'; 9") substantially completely surrounding each core, said covering comprising at least one compound whose solubility increases with decreasing concentration of a specific compound in the medium surrounding the particle,

and

an agent to prevent significant dissolution of the covering or significant detachment of said covering from the core (8; 8') or cores (8") until the inflow of the fresh water into the tank.

53. A composition according to claim 52, in which the concentration of the specific compound in the medium surrounding the particle or particles is, until the inflow of fresh water into the tank, sufficiently high to prevent significant dissolution of the covering or significant detachment of said covering from the core (8; 8') or cores (8").

54. A composition according to claim 53 in which each particle is coated with a substance which, substantially independently of the concentration of the specific compound in the surrounding medium, dissolves or separates from the particle during the period from the introduction of the composition to a filled water tank up to the complete or partial emptying of water from the water tank.

55. A composition according to claim 52, in which the basic composition is in the form of a tablet (1; 1').

56. A composition according to claim 55, in which the particle or particles are placed in or on the tablet in such a way that the concentration of the specific compound in the medium surrounding the particle or particles is, until a substantially complete dissolution of the tablet, sufficiently high to prevent significant dissolution of the covering or a significant detachment of said covering from the core.

57. A composition according to claim 56, in which all the particles are received in at least one cavity (4, 5) of the tablet (1) completely surrounded by the basic composition (2, 3).

A1 cont

58. A composition according to claim 57, in which each cavity contains one or more particles (6) which, alone or together, have essentially the same volume as the cavity.

59. A composition according to claim 57, in which one or more cavities has a larger volume than the particle or particles (6) contained in the particular cavity.

60. A composition according to claim 59, in which the particle or particles are placed loosely in the interior of the cavity.

61. A composition according to claim 59, in which the particle or particles are fixed in the interior of the cavity.

62. A composition according to claim 61, in which the particle or particles are fixed by an adhesive.

63. A composition according to claim 57, in which the cavity is positioned substantially centrally in the interior of the tablet.

64. A composition according to claim 63, in which the tablet has a single substantially spherical cavity.

65. A composition according to claim 64, in which the cavity contains a single substantially spherical particle whose external diameter is smaller than the internal diameter of the cavity.

66. A composition according to claim 56, in which the particle or particles (6'; 6") are received in at least one cavity (5) of the tablet (1), which is only partly surrounded by the basic composition.

67. A composition according to claim 56, in which the particle or particles (6'; 6") are received in a depression (4') in one of the surfaces (11') of the tablet (1').

68. A composition according to claim 66 or 67, in which the particle or particles are placed in the cavity or depression in such a way that they do not project over the surface or surfaces of the tablet.

69. A composition according to claim 68, in which the cavity or depression contains only a single particle whose volume and shape in the vicinity of the cavity or depression substantially coincides with the volume and shape of the cavity or depression and substantially completely fills said cavity or depression.

70. A composition according to claim 69, in which the cavity or depression is parallel to the surface to which it opens or in which it is placed and has a substantially circular cross-sectional area.

71. A composition according to claim 70, in which the cavity or depression is open to the surface only to the extent that the particle or particles located therein cannot pass out of said cavity or depression.

72. A composition according to claim 71, in which the particle or particles are loosely arranged in the cavity or depression.

73. A composition according to claim 71, in which the particle or particles are fixed in the cavity or depression.

74. A composition according to claim 73, in which the particle or particles are fixed by an adhesive (10').

75. A composition according to claim 52, in which the covering comprises at least one compound, which (a), at the concentration of the specific compound prior to the inflow of fresh water, is insoluble or is only slightly soluble and (b), at the concentration of the specific compound following the inflow of an adequate quantity of fresh water, has an adequate solubility for it to be so significantly dissolved or detached from the core or cores so that a complete or partial escape of the core material into the surrounding medium is made possible.

76. A composition according to claim 75, in which the solubility of the specific compound increases with decreasing OH^- ionic concentration in the surrounding medium.

77. A composition according to claim 76, in which the specific compound is a polymer.

78. A composition according to claim 77, in which the specific compound is a pH-sensitive polymer, which comprises at least one repeat unit having at least one basic function not forming part of the polymer backbone chain.

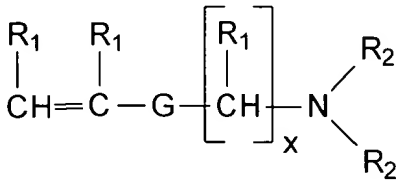
79. A composition according to claim 78, in which a repeat unit is based on a compound selected from the group consisting of vinyl alcohol derivatives, acrylates and alkyl acrylates having said basic function.

80. A composition according to claim 78, in which the polymer is a carbohydrate functionalized with said basic function.

81. A composition according to claim 78, in which the basic function is an amine.

82. A composition according to claim 81, in which the amine is a secondary or tertiary amine.

83. A composition according to claim 81, in which the repeat unit of the polymer is based on a compound of formula III:



(III)

in which

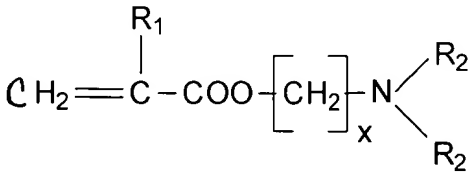
G is a linking group selected from –COO–, –OCO– ,–CONH–, –NHCO–, –NHCONH–, –NHCOO–, –OCONH– or –OCOO–,

each R_1 is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

each R_2 is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and

x is an integer from 1 to 6.

84. A composition according to claim 83, in which the repeat unit is based on a compound of formula IV.



(IV)

in which

R_1 is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

each R_2 is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and

x is an integer from 1 to 6.

A' cont

85. A composition according to claim 78, in which the basic function is an imine.

86. A composition according to claim 78, in which the basic function is a basic aromatic N-containing group.

87. A composition according to claim 86, in which the basic function is a pyridine group.

88. A composition according to claim 86, in which the basic function is an imidazole group.

89. A composition according to claim 80, in which the polymer is derived from chitosan.

90. A composition according to claim 75, in which the specific compound is κ-carrageenan.

91. A composition according to claim 75, in which the solubility of the specific compound increases with decreasing H+ ion concentration in the surrounding medium.

92. A composition according to claim 91, in which the specific compound is a polymer.

93. A composition according to claim 92, in which the specific compound is a pH-sensitive polymer having at least one repeat unit which is based on a compound having an acid function.

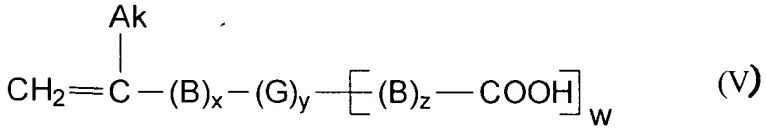
A' cont

94. A composition according to claim 93, in which the polymer has at least one repeat unit based on a compound selected from the group consisting of vinyl alcohol derivatives, acrylates and alkyl acrylates having said acid function.

95. A composition according to claim 93, in which the polymer is a carbohydrate functionalized with said acid function.

96. A composition according to claim 93, in which the acid function is a carboxyl group.

97. A composition according to claim 96, in which the repeat unit of the polymer is based on a compound of formula V:



(V)

in which

G is a linking group selected from –COO–, –OCO–, –CONH–, –NHCO–, –NHCONH–, –NHCOO–, –OCONH– or –OCOO–,

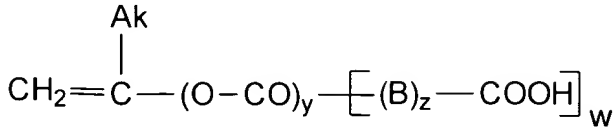
B is a hydrocarbon group selected from straight or branched-chain, saturated or unsaturated, optionally substituted alkylene, arylene or aralkylene,

Ak is hydrogen or an alkyl group, preferably with 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

x, y and z, independently of one another, are either 0 or 1, and

w is an integer from 1 to 3.

98. A composition according to claim 97, in which the repeat unit is based on a compound of formula VI:



(VI)

in which

B is a hydrocarbon group selected from straight or branched-chain, saturated or unsaturated, optionally substituted alkylene, arylene or aralkylene,

Ak is hydrogen or an alkyl group, preferably with 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

y and z, independently of each other, are either 0 to 1, and

w is an integer from 1 to 3.

99. A composition according to claim 95, in which the polymer is derived from a polysaccharide by partial esterification of some of its free hydroxyl group with a polycarboxylic acid and/or by partial etherification of some of its free hydroxyl groups with a product obtained by the esterification of one mole of a polycarboxylic acid with one mole of a polyol.

100. A composition according to claim 52, in which the core or cores comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of fragrances, disinfectants, pH-indicators, and combination thereof.

101. A composition according to claim 100, in which the core (8; 8') or at least some of the cores (8") is in the form of an encapsulated liquid.